to import cheaper variety of rice for internal consumption; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Government have contracted during July and August, 1992 for import of 1.40 lakh tonnes of Vietnamese Long Grain White Rice @ US $ 180 per M.T. on FOB basis from Vietnam.

Against repayment of interest dues from Vietnam on old commodity loans, further contracts for importing 75,000 MTs of the same variety of Vietnamese rice have been signed at the same rates during October and November, 1992.

Stock of Rice in the Country

2865. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has very low level of rice stock in the central pool; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The stocks of rice in the Central Pool was 5.1 million tonnes as on 1.10.1992 against 6.0 million tonnes as on 1st October of a year prescribed under the buffer stocking policy. The rice stocks as on 1.11.1992 were 6.0 million tonnes.

Storage of Foodgrains in the big cities of the Country

2866. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of foodgrains in the country has been adversely affected on account of price rise in the transportation charges;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made any effective arrangements to ensure storage facilities for foodgrains in various big cities of the country and particularly in big towns of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The availability of foodgrains in the country is dependent on the production and not on the increase in the transportation charges.

(b) Does not rise.

(c) and (d) The storage capacity owned by Food Corporation of India and that hired by it from Central Ware-housing Corporation, etc. is spread throughout the country. Efforts are made by Food Corporation of India on a continuous basis to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in their godowns located in a State to *meet its* requirements for Public Distribution System, etc. As regards Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the total storage capacity (owned and hired by FCI) available as on 30.9.1992, was 6.38 lakh tonnes and 23.82 lakh tonnes respectively.

Setting up Sugar Factories in A.P.

2867. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications seeking letters of intent to set up sugar factories are pending from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) since when these are pending;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay,

(d) what are the details of those applications which have been recommended by the State Government; and

(e) what steps have been taken to avoid further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) As on 20.7.1992, 90 applications seeking grant of letters of intent for establishment of new sugar factories had been received through the Department of Industrial Development from the State of Andhra Pradesh. Majority of them have been received during the calender years 1990 and 1991.

(c) and (c) In view of the large pendency of unimplemented letters of intent/licences already issued, proposals for setting up of new sugar factories have not yet been taken up for consideration.

(d) Most of the records/applications have been damaged/burnt in the fire that broke out in Krishi Bhavan on 16.10.1992. As such, the information received from the State Governments is not readily available.

Fall in Foodgrain Production

2868. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently cautioned the nation against a possible fall in foodgrains production due *to* diversion of land to relatively more lucrative crops; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While addressing the Indian Agricultural Science Congress on 12th November, 1992 the Prime Minister has emphasised the need to increase food production to meet the demand for increasing population. The long-term strategy for increasing food production include upgradation and extension of new technologies to the farmers/areas where technology has not diffused so far; continuing the crop production oriented thrust programmes; diversification of crop production, tapping of the available irrigation potential; and appropriate market and price support.

खाद्यान्नों की विहित भंडारण पद्धति

2869. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह: क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार खाद्यान्नों के लिए विहित भंडारण मानकों का अनुसरण कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में 30 सितम्बर, 1992 तक की गई कार्रवाई का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई): (क) और (ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम और केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम अपने गोदामों तथा इन निगमों द्वारा किराये पर लिए गए गोदामों, जोकि वैज्ञानिक ढंग से बनाए जाते हैं, में खाद्यान्नों और अन्य वस्तुओं का भंडारण करते हैं। इसके अलावा, वे विहित मानदण्डों के अनुसार भंडारण के दौरान वस्तुओं के परिरक्षण और स्वास्थ्य को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रत्येक संभव पग उठाते हैं। भारतीय खाद्य निगम और केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम द्वारा उठाए गए प्रमुख कदमों का ब्यौरा क्रमशः विवरण-1 और 2 में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिये)

(ग) वित्तीय वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान 30 सितम्बर, 1992 तक खाद्य मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने विभिन्न राज्यों और संघ शासित प्रदेशों में भारतीय खाद्य निगम, केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम, राज्य सरकारों और उनकी एजेंसियों के 202 खाद्य भंडारण डिपुओं (विवरण-3) का निरीक्षण किया था। संबंधित प्राधिकारियों की कमियों/दोषों के बारे में सूचित कर दिया गया था ताकि वे उन्हें दूर करने के लिए उपचारी उपाय कर सकें।

विवरण-1

भंडारण के दौरान खाद्यान्नों की क्षति को रोकने के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा किए गए उपाय

(1) खाद्यान्नों का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से भंडारण किया जाता है और चूहों और जन्तुबाधा पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए नियमित रूप से कीट नियंत्रण उपाय किए जाते हैं।

(2) मानसून से पहले गोदामों का निरीक्षण किया जाता है और वर्षा के पानी के रिसाव को